

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera that captures an image with an imaging part and displays the image on a displaying device, wherein the camera determines a brightness level of video signals obtained by the imaging part and automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level and outputs the corrected video signals to the displaying device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera comprising:

- an imaging part that includes an imaging device;
- a signal processing part that processes signals outputted from the imaging part;
- a brightness determining part that receives video signals outputted from the signal processing part and determines a brightness level of the received video signals;
- a correction amount determining part that determines a correction amount for the video signals according to the brightness level of the video signals determined by the brightness determining part;
- correcting part that automatically corrects the video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part, wherein the

video signals are corrected according to the determined brightness level from the brightness determining part without lowering an SN ratio; and

an outputting part that outputs video signals corrected by the correction part to a displaying device.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the signal processing part comprises

an A/D converter that converts the signals outputted from the imaging part into digital signals, and

a D/A converter that converts the video signals corrected by the correcting part into analog signals; and

the correcting part corrects the video signals before the video signals are converted into the analog signals by the D/A converter.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera comprising:

an imaging part that includes an imaging device;

a variable gain amplifier that amplifies signals outputted from the imaging part;

a signal processing part that processes signals amplified by the variable gain amplifier;

a brightness determining part that receives video signals outputted from the signal processing part and determines a brightness level of the received video signals;

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals, wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio;

a correction amount determining part that determines a correction amount for the video signals according to the brightness level of the video signals determined by the brightness determining part;

a correcting part that corrects the video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part; and

an outputting part that outputs video signals corrected by the correction part to a displaying device.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the correcting part does not include a variable gain amplifier.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;

an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;
an imaging signal processing circuit having
an A/D converter for converting signals from the imaging device into digital image signals,
a gamma correcting circuit,
a YC signal generating circuit, wherein gamma processing and chroma signal processing are performed on the digital image signals, and
a D/A converter for converting digital image signals into analog image signals;
a display device controlling circuit;
a displaying device, wherein said display device controlling circuit outputs signals to the displaying device according to image signals output from the image signal processing circuit; and
a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM, wherein said microcomputer controls the diaphragm according to the video signals from the signal processing circuit, sends shutter speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and automatically determines if a determined brightness level of the image signals is lower than a predetermined value, wherein said microcomputer obtains a correction value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the image signals and outputs a command control signal

to the image signal processing circuit for automatic correction processing of the image signals without lowering an SN ratio and before the image signals are converted into analog signals by the D/A converter.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 6, further comprising a switch for choosing a command correction processing mode or a non-correction processing mode.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 6, further comprising a variable gain amplifier operatively connected between the imaging device and the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit, wherein a gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled by the microcomputer to provide an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within the EEPROM and which does not permit a lowering of the SN ratio.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 8, said variable gain amplifier amplifying the image signals from the imaging device before said A/D converter receives said image signals.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera that captures an image with an imaging part and displays the image on a displaying device, wherein the camera determines a brightness level of video signals obtained by the imaging part and automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level and outputs the corrected video signals to the displaying device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the video signals by a correction value through correction processing;

a variable gain amplifier that amplifies signals outputted from an imaging part;

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals, wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the corrected video signals by a correction value through correction processing, wherein a microcomputer within the camera provides an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within an EEPROM of the computer and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio, wherein a gain controlling part of the camera controls a gain of a variable gain amplifier within the camera according to the determined brightness level of the video signals, and the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range.